



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 6718***

LCO No. 3221

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:  
(PD )

***AN ACT CONCERNING STATE GRANTS FOR REGIONAL  
EFFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in this section:
- 2       (1) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated
- 3       town and city or consolidated town and borough;
- 4       (2) "Joint program" means a service, undertaking or operation to be
- 5       provided or performed in accordance with this act by more than one
- 6       municipality, either by a municipality for another on a contract basis or
- 7       in any other manner authorized by law;
- 8       (3) "Political subdivision" means any local authority or district
- 9       which performs a public function or service in any of the following
- 10      areas: Fire protection, first aid, social services, community
- 11      development, community or regional planning or public health; and
- 12      (4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
- 13      Management.

14 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
15 provide financial assistance to municipalities for regional efficiency  
16 development. Notwithstanding the provisions of the general statutes,  
17 grants shall be made to any municipality to provide a service which  
18 (1) a feasibility study prepared under subsection (d) of this section  
19 determines only be provided on a joint basis; (2) is currently not being  
20 provided at all or which, based on the evidence submitted pursuant to  
21 subsection (d) of this section, is being provided at a level substantially  
22 below the minimum needs of the recipients; (3) consolidates existing  
23 service systems to achieve efficiency and economy. Applications for  
24 joint service program grants may be made covering the following  
25 service areas: (A) Assessment and collection of taxes; (B) maintenance  
26 of municipal records and statistics and electronic data processing; (C)  
27 building, housing and plumbing code inspection and enforcement; (D)  
28 solid waste collection and disposal or recycling; (E) air pollution  
29 control inspection and enforcement; (F) welfare and social service  
30 programs; (G) maintenance and administration of parks and  
31 recreational and cultural facilities; (H) maintenance of roads, public  
32 works and beaches; (I) fire departments; and (J) energy conservation  
33 services.

34 (c) A municipality may apply for a grant under this section to  
35 provide for the services specified in subsection (b) of this section. A  
36 political subdivision may apply to participate in a joint program and  
37 receive financial assistance under this section provided application is  
38 made by the municipality in which the political subdivision is located.

39 (d) No grant shall be made unless the applicant has submitted to the  
40 secretary a plan of operation based on a feasibility study of the joint  
41 program proposed to be conducted. A feasibility study shall include  
42 such detailed surveys of existing service standards in the areas to be  
43 served by the joint program as may be required by the secretary to  
44 establish that a joint program would (1) enable provision of a needed  
45 service which could not otherwise be provided, or remedy existing  
46 levels of service provision, or otherwise produce better services at

47 relatively lower unit costs or more efficient administration, (2) not  
48 adversely affect neighboring local units, and (3) not exclude adjacent  
49 municipalities that might benefit from the joint program. Not more  
50 than thirty days after submission of the feasibility study, the secretary  
51 shall conduct a public hearing in each municipality to be included in  
52 the proposed joint program. Not more than thirty days after the last  
53 hearing on the feasibility study, and upon submission and approval of  
54 a plan of operation based on the feasibility study as provided in this  
55 subsection, the program shall be eligible for aid under this section. If  
56 the study recommends establishment of a joint service program, not  
57 more than six months after the date of the last public hearing on the  
58 feasibility study, the legislative body of each municipality which  
59 participated in the study shall submit a statement to the secretary  
60 indicating its intention to implement the recommendation or detailing  
61 their objections to each recommendation made in the feasibility study  
62 for establishing a joint service plan. No joint program shall receive  
63 financial assistance unless the legislative body of each municipality has  
64 passed identical resolutions ratifying the condition of the grant  
65 between the municipality and the state.

66 (e) The secretary may provide financial assistance to municipalities  
67 to conduct a feasibility study for a joint program.

68 (f) The secretary, upon request of the chief executive officer of a  
69 municipality, shall conduct a preliminary survey of the eligibility of  
70 the municipality for a grant under subsection (b) of this section with  
71 respect to any joint arrangements for provision of services specified or  
72 suggested in such request. The preliminary survey shall be of sufficient  
73 scope and detail to enable the secretary to advise all municipalities and  
74 political subdivisions affected by the proposed joint program that a  
75 detailed feasibility study is warranted pursuant to this section. The  
76 commissioner shall transmit formal notice of the findings and  
77 conclusions of the preliminary survey to all municipalities affected by  
78 the proposed joint program.

79 (g) The secretary shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
80 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the administration  
81 of this section, including establishment of eligibility standards for joint  
82 programs and the application processes.

83 Sec. 2. The sum of five million dollars is appropriated to the Office  
84 of Policy and Management, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year  
85 ending June 30, 2002, for grants pursuant to section 1 of this act.

86 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a program of grants to municipalities for the joint administration of local programs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*